

Remarks

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed April 4, 2006. Claims 1-69 were pending. After entry of the amendments herein, claims 2-9, 11-22, 26-32, 34-42, 47-65, 67-69, and new claims 70-85 will be pending.

Remarks on Amendments

The amendments herein to claims 1-69 are made to obtain allowance of the subject matter in these claims that the Examiner indicated as allowable in the office action. The pending rejections are respectfully traversed, and these amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer of applicants' right to further prosecute claims of the same or broader scope in a continuation application. These claims are amended only to expedite issuance of allowable claims, and not to limit the claims in response to any prior art rejections.

New claims 70-85 are submitted for examination on the merits, and are believed to be similarly allowable over the art of record.

Response to Rejections

The pending rejections are respectfully traversed, as applicants believe the claimed invention is distinguishable from the cited references. However, to expedite issuance of claims indicated as allowable, applicants have elected to cancel claims and/or amend the claims, without prejudice or disclaimer of the claim scope originally presented. Thus, in view of the amendments herein claims 2-9, 11-22, 26-32, 34-42, 47-65 and 67-69 should be ready for allowance in conformance with the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

Applicant submits that the pending rejections are overcome by the amendments and remarks herein. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested on that basis, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If a telephone or personal conference would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, who will cooperate appropriately to advance the case.

Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment thereof, to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (123272-00118). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to render this submission timely, Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for such an extension for as many months as are required to render this submission timely, and request that the PTO charge the extension fee to the deposit account as authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,



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